

When Mr. Russert asked the question again, the Vice President laughed and said he would want to think about it. The next day, Mr. GORE emerged from his campaign headquarters and said that it should be up to the felon to decide.

Mr. Speaker, most people on death row are there because they have willfully taken another life, often several of them. The death penalty is not given for manslaughter or third degree murder. It is only given to perpetrators of the most horrible crimes.

How on Earth could the Vice President believe that we should be asking these people for permission to kill their innocent, unborn children along with themselves?

Is the child guilty of the crimes as the mother? Obviously not.

We have had laws for hundreds of years against executing pregnant death row inmates.

Mr. Speaker, the Vice President's position on this issue is wrong. It is callous and cruel.

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INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the issue of international child abduction, and to continue to make my colleagues aware that this issue has ripped 10,000 American children away from their parents.

I have been coming here almost every day since February 16 telling a story about an abducted child, and today I am going to be talking about Brianna Nicole Ballout. Brianna was abducted by her noncustodial father, Samar Ali Ballout, during his weekend visitation on July 7, 1996. The abductor and Brianna's mother shared joint custody, but Mrs. Rogers had physical custody.

An unlawful flight to avoid prosecution was issued as well as a warrant for his kidnapping. The FBI and the State Department located Brianna in Southern Lebanon, and over 2 years, her mother has had sporadic contact with her, ranging from phone calls to receiving pictures when she was 4 in 1999. Mrs. Rogers has lost contact with Brianna and her abducting father.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this House and my colleagues to join me and to do whatever it takes to bring our children home.

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EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that an education is the best provision for old age. Without an education, a person's options and their potential for growth are severely limited.

Nowhere is this philosophy more accurate than in America, where even many entry-level jobs require a college degree.

Unfortunately, America's public education system has been failing thousands of American students. Many of our schools are struggling just to provide the basic tools of modern education demands, computers, updated textbooks and evenly qualified teachers.

Republicans are working to solve these problems. We passed legislation that gives States maximum flexibility in how they use Federal education dollars.

We also passed measures to help improve teacher quality and reduce class size, and we passed legislation to improve education opportunities for disabled students. Republicans are making education a top priority and our children deserve no less.

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SUBSTANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION RE-AUTHORIZATION

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to address two pressing issues before our country today; substance abuse and mental health.

This week, I introduced H.R. 4867, the Youth Drug and Mental Health Services Act, along with my colleagues the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

This bill reauthorizes the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration which provides State mental health and substance abuse prevention grants throughout this country.

Drug addiction is often an intergenerational family problem with future use by children of addicts a very common occurrence. Sadly, this is a pattern I regularly saw as a school nurse, but I have also seen the success of SAMHSA prevention programs in my own district, particularly with Santa Barbara's Fighting Back.

This program provides successful public awareness initiatives, mentoring, criminal justice partnerships and health care intervention programs.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to move H.R. 4867 as soon as it is possible. This reauthorization is the best way to comprehensively address the problems of substance abuse confronting our communities. These problems are just too great for us to treat in a piecemeal fashion.

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ELIMINATE MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX AND DEATH TAX

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, now is the time, once and for all, to eliminate the marriage penalty and the death tax. These are antiquated and unfair taxes, and they penalize too many American families.

In my district alone, more than 77,000 married couples are subjected to the marriage tax. There is no good reason why we are penalizing these couples who choose to marry. It is unfair financial hardship and it does not reflect the family values of this country. I hope the President will join us in our effort to eliminate this unfair tax burden.

I also want to see the elimination of the estate tax. It is obscene that in this country we tax the dead and penalize the survivors. The time has come to eliminate both these Federal taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to put aside political considerations and help the Congress abolish these taxes. Why? Because it is the right thing to do.

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WHITE HOUSE THROWING MONEY AROUND AT CAMP DAVID

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday it was \$40 billion, today they are talking \$150 billion at Camp David. Unbelievable.

While the White House continues to oppose a tax cut for married couples in America, the White House is literally throwing money around at Camp David like confetti, like cotton candy at a summer festival.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a flawed and dangerous policy. The bottom line, a true, lasting and enduring peace will never be built on a foundation of dollars in the first place. I yield back the auction at Camp David.

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REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday America lost a true friend, and we were all saddened to hear of the tragic news that we had lost a colleague and friend in the United States Senate.

Senator PAUL COVERDELL was a true leader of the Senate, his beloved State of Georgia and to this Nation. As an ardent supporter of freedom and the American dream, the distinguished Senator from Georgia believed that freedom was best preserved and nurtured by a well-educated citizenry.

As a result, throughout his career, Senator COVERDELL fought for education reform which ensured that every child in America received a quality education in a safe environment.

Personally, I am honored to have had the recent opportunity to work with the Senator in passing a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Reagans, a family which he held in high regard.

Senator COVERDELL's tenacity and dedication to that effort, as well as to